

Hot Air



Message from the President

March 2016

As we all know, our hobby is dominated by foam, ARF's and ready-to-fly aircraft of all types. Many of our newer members have never built a kit and had the satisfaction and pride associated with putting it in the air and watching it fly. At the February meeting, Chet Schmitt brought his beautiful, scratch-built Westland Lysander. The plane was built from English plans and is electric-powered. Even the articulating observer's machine gun was hand-crafted. Chet is truly a master builder. As of the meeting, the Lysander hadn't flown but Chet has every intention of putting the plane in the air. I have included a few photographs of it, but they really don't do the plane justice.

If you have never flown a plane you built, I suggest you give it a try. Kits are still available, but you have to track them down. Here are a few links to kit manufacturers:

[Brodak - Dare Electric R/C Kits](#)
[Manzano Laser Works, LLC](#)
[Mountain Models](#)
[Sig Mfg. Co.](#)

If you are a little apprehensive about building a kit, ask around the club for advice. You will find a lot of experience that can help you get started on a great new part of our hobby. Online, you can find a tremendous amount of building information in the electric and sailplane forums on [RC Groups](#).

Baseball is cranking up at Entradero Park. Remember: our club flight guidelines do not allow flying from our field when organized practices and games are underway on any of the other fields at the park.

Next Meeting

**Wednesday,
March 2nd**

**La Romeria Park
7:30pm**

El Nino rains haven't impacted our flying as much as we thought it might. The Santa Ana's and high pressure have made slope flying difficult at times at Del Cerro. This month, the Del Cerro Fun-Fly will be this Saturday, March 5th. Guys usually start arriving around Noon.

Be extremely careful walking on the trails and cliff if you need to recover a plane. The date for the Entradero Fun-Fly will be Friday, March 18th. Flying will start at 8:00 AM. Please note the day is Friday.

The City of Torrance continues to remind us to keep the main gates to Entradero closed and locked when we are flying. If you have a project you are working on, bring it to the meeting for show-and-tell. Enjoy the fields and I hope to see at the meeting or out flying.

Upcoming Fun-Flys

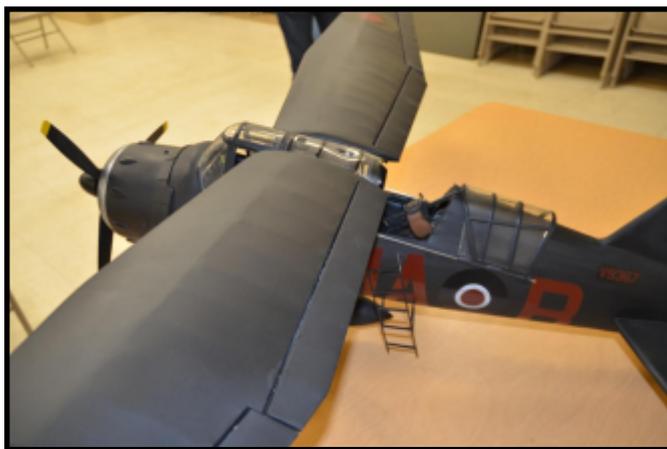
**Del Cerro March 5th
Entradero March 18th**

All the best,
- Jeff





Chet Schmitt's Westland Lysander



A Nautical Diversion

by Jerry Lake

This story starts about 25 years ago with a Christmas present. I've always liked mahogany boats, especially the Chris-Craft runabout type and I saw a kit at the local hobby shop around Christmas time. The next thing you know it was under the tree. I concentrated on building it for a while and then

other things caught my eye and it wound up stored up high in the garage and out-of-sight. Every now and then, Irmi would ask me when was I going to finish that boat Santa Claus spent so much money on.



Shifting forward, the local city modified a nearby large drainage basin to filter water that eventually made it's way to the sea. An unintended consequence was the large pond they created in the process. That got a lot of my buddies thinking about boats and putting floats on their model planes. I told some of them I had a partially-finished boat and they kept after me until I finally got it down and completed it.



The attached pictures are from a maiden voyage in my doctor friend's (Dave) swimming pool. That's Dave driving it in one of the pictures. He was on call and stuck at home, so I borrowed his pool for a few minutes. I didn't put it in the pond because I was afraid the boat might malfunction and I'd have no way to get to it.



The boat ran pretty well after we got it trimmed (added weight in the stern) so it would sit level in the water. There are a few pictures attached of the maiden voyage. I may eventually take it over to the pond where I can see how fast it'll go. I filled much

of the interior with foam, so if I do flip it over, it shouldn't sink.

As far as construction, it was built from more-or-less a box of parts and mahogany strips. It's finished with fiberglass resin and cloth, much like the real versions. The odd sight in the back seat is the battery. There is room for it down in the hull but it's too difficult to access for charging, so I just put it in the back seat when I'm running the boat. It has forward and reverse drive and uses electronics similar to my airplanes.



The original boat was built in the upper Midwest - I think maybe Wisconsin or Michigan - and was made right after WWII when the US domestic industry was turning it's thoughts from things like attack landing boats for the Army (like Chris-Craft) to cool toys for returning soldiers to buy. It was called a barrel back because the unique shape of the stern looked a little bit like a whiskey barrel. Two or three of my uncles back in Indiana pretty much made a living refinishing and repairing wooden boats like these. You can see many real versions at Lake Tahoe and other locations.

- Jerry





- Club Officers and Volunteers
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A Few Photos from AMA Expo 2016

